AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for verifying an amount of a sample solution comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting at least one selected from the group consisting of a transmitted light component, a scattered light component and a reflected light component of a light which is traversed by a rising surface of the sample solution being injected into a sample cell, and outputting an output signal corresponding to the detection; and

(b) verifying that a predetermined amount of said sample solution is held in said sample cell based on a change in the output signal,

wherein step (b) is performed based on a change over time in the output signal, and

wherein step (b) is a step of verifying that said predetermined amount of said sample solution is held in said sample cell based on the fact that an absolute value of an amount of change in said output signal over time is maintained at or less than a first predetermined value for a first predetermined duration or longer.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method for verifying an amount of a sample solution in accordance with claim [[2]] 1, wherein the step (b) is a step of detecting an inflow of said sample solution into said sample cell based on the fact that said absolute value has become at least a second predetermined value, followed by verifying that said predetermined amount of said sample solution is held in said sample cell based on the fact that said absolute value of an amount of change in said output signal is maintained at or less than the first predetermined value for the first predetermined duration or longer, after detecting said inflow.

4. (Original) The method for verifying an amount of a sample solution in accordance with claim 3, wherein the second predetermined value is greater than the first predetermined value.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The method for verifying an amount of a sample solution in accordance with claim 1, wherein said sample solution is a urine which is injected into a sample cell provided in a hollow space of a toilet bowl.

8. (Currently amended) A method for controlling a measurement system comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting at least one selected from the group consisting of a transmitted light component, a scattered light component and a reflected light component of a light which is traversed by a rising surface of a sample solution being injected into a sample cell, and outputting an output signal corresponding to the detection;

(b) verifying that a predetermined amount of said sample solution is held in said sample cell based on a change in the output signal; and then

(c) measuring an optical characteristic of the sample solution,

wherein step (b) is performed based on a change over time in the output signal, and

wherein step (b) is a step of verifying that said predetermined amount of said sample solution is held in said sample cell based on the fact that an absolute value of an amount of change in said output signal over time is maintained at or less than a first predetermined value for a first predetermined duration or longer.

9. (Previously presented) The method for controlling a measurement system in accordance with claim 8, further comprising a step of:

verifying that said sample solution has become stable based on the fact that said absolute value of said amount of change in said output signal is maintained at or less than a predetermined value for a predetermined duration or longer, after the step (b) and before the step (c).

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The method for controlling a measurement system in accordance with claim 8, wherein said light in the step (a) is also used for measuring said optical characteristic in the step (c).

12. (Original) The method for controlling a measurement system in accordance with claim 8, wherein said sample solution is transfused from said sample cell to another sample cell after the step (b), and the rest of the steps are conducted thereafter.

13. (Previously presented) The method for controlling a measurement system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the step (c) is a step of detecting a light, which has been transmitted through said sample solution and an analyzer, by a photosensor to measure an angle of rotation of said sample solution, using an output signal from said photosensor as a transmitted light component.

14. (Original) The method for controlling a measurement system in accordance with claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

(d) discharging said sample solution from said sample cell after the step (c); and then

(e) washing said sample cell.

15. (Original) The method for controlling a measurement system in accordance with claim 14, wherein the steps (d) and (e) are conducted simultaneously by replacing said sample solution in said sample cell with a cleaning solution.

16. (Original) The method for controlling a measurement system in accordance with claim 8, wherein said sample solution is a urine, the steps (a) to (c) are conducted after said sample cell installed in a position closed to a side wall of a toilet bowl is moved into a hollow space of said toilet bowl, and the rest of the steps are conducted after said sample cell is restored to the initial position.

17. (Original) The method for controlling a measurement system in accordance with claim 8, wherein said sample solution is a urine, the steps (a) and (b) are conducted after said sample cell installed in a position closed to a side wall of a toilet bowl is moved into a hollow space of said toilet bowl, and the rest of the steps are conducted after said sample cell is restored to the initial position.

18. (Original) The method for controlling a measurement system in accordance with claim 16, wherein a urine and/or a cleaning solution is discharged into a toilet bowl.

19. (Currently amended) A method for measuring a concentration of a sample solution comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting at least one selected from the group consisting of a transmitted light component, a scattered light component and a reflected light component of a light which is traversed by a rising surface of the sample solution being injected into a sample cell, and outputting an output signal corresponding to the detection;

(b) verifying that a predetermined amount of said sample solution is held in said sample cell based on a change in the output signal; and

(c) measuring an optical characteristic of the sample solution after mixing a predetermined amount of a reagent with said sample solution, followed by measuring a concentration of a specific substance contained in said sample solution,

wherein step (b) is performed based on a change over time in the output signal, and

wherein step (b) is a step of verifying that said predetermined amount of said sample solution is held in said sample cell based on the fact that an absolute value of an amount of change in said output signal over time is maintained at or less than a first predetermined value for a first predetermined duration or longer.

20. (Previously presented) The method for measuring a concentration of a sample solution in accordance with claim 19, wherein said step (c) is a step of measuring an angle of rotation of said sample solution to measure a concentration of an optically active substance contained in said sample solution, followed by measuring a concentration of a specific substance contained in said sample solution by measuring an optical characteristic of said sample solution after mixing therewith a predetermined amount of a reagent.

21. (Previously presented) The method for controlling a measurement system in accordance with claim 8, wherein step (c) includes measuring the optical characteristic of the sample solution using a photosensor.

22. (Previously presented) The method for measuring a concentration of a sample solution in accordance with claim 19, wherein step (c) includes measuring the optical characteristic of the sample solution using a photosensor.

23. (Previously presented) The method for verifying an amount of a sample solution in accordance with claim 2, wherein the step (b) is a step of detecting an inflow of said sample solution into said sample cell based on the fact that said output signal has become a predetermined value or less, followed by verifying that said predetermined amount of said sample solution is held in said sample cell based on the fact that said absolute value of an amount of change in said output signal is maintained at or less than the first predetermined value for the first predetermined duration or longer, after detecting said inflow.

24. (Currently amended) ~~The method for verifying an amount of a sample solution in accordance with claim 1,~~ A method for verifying an amount of a sample solution comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting at least one selected from the group consisting of a transmitted light component, a scattered light component and a reflected light component of a light which is traversed by a rising surface of the sample solution being injected into a sample cell, and outputting an output signal corresponding to the detection; and

(b) verifying that a predetermined amount of said sample solution is held in said sample cell based on a change in the output signal,

wherein step (b) is performed based on a change over time in the output signal, and

wherein the step (a) is a step of detecting a transmitted light component of the light, and the step (b) is a step of verifying that said predetermined amount of said sample solution is held in said sample cell based on the fact that an absolute value of an amount of change in said output signal over time has become a predetermined value or less than the predetermined value and said output signal has become a predetermined value or greater than said predetermined value.

25. (Currently amended) ~~The method for verifying an amount of a sample solution in accordance with claim 1,~~ A method for verifying an amount of a sample solution comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting at least one selected from the group consisting of a transmitted light component, a scattered light component and a reflected light component of a light which is traversed by a rising surface of the sample solution being injected into a sample cell, and outputting an output signal corresponding to the detection; and

(b) verifying that a predetermined amount of said sample solution is held in said sample cell based on a change in the output signal,

wherein step (b) is performed based on a change over time in the output signal, and

wherein the step (a) is a step of detecting a scattered light component of the light, and the step (b) is a step of verifying that said predetermined amount of said sample solution is held in said sample cell based on the fact that an absolute value of an amount of change in said output signal over time has become a predetermined value or less than the predetermined value and said output signal has become a predetermined value or less than the predetermined value.

26-28. (Cancelled)